

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Several of the amendments to the specification are submitted to obviate the requirement for amended drawings.

Others of the submitted amendments to the specification overcome the informalities noted by the Examiner.

The claims have been amended to overcome the rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph, by the deletion of the term "vicinity" in claim 1 and the term "about" in claim 13.

In response to the rejections on art, Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out and more distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Antecedent basis for the amendments to claim 1 is derived from at least page 5, line 37 through page 6, line 11 as well as page 8, lines 19 to 24.

These amendments make explicit that in accordance with the present invention the binder material is applied to the surface of the backing prior to the formation of the pile loops. Thus, the binder is able to concentrate in the region of the root portion of the pile to hold the pile to the backing. At the same time the upper portions of the pile elements remain substantially free of binder material (see, page 6, lines 15 to 20).

None of the references relied upon by the examiner anticipate or render obvious the invention recited in the amended claims.

The two primary references, U.S. Patent 4,871,604 (Hackler) and U.S. Patent 2,261,096 (Reinhardt), both relate to methods in which a binder material is applied after the formation of the nap or pile. Moreover, the binder material is disposed over the entire pile structure.

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Reinhardt relates to the formation of a needled felt product. After a layer of fiber is needled-punched into a base fabric the entire structure is immersed to a tank of dilute adhesive. The entire product is covered with the adhesive material for the purpose of improving the durability of the product.

Hackler also discloses a method in which a binder, albeit in powder form, is dispensed over the entire tufted pile surface. The purpose of the binder is to insure adhesion among the filaments along the entire length of the pile tufts.

Neither of these references anticipates nor renders obvious the claimed invention. In accordance with the present invention binder material is applied prior to the formation of the pile, and in a manner that insures that the binder is concentrated near the roots of the pile. The binder serves to bond the pile to the backing and to the stitching yarns without disposing binder along the length of the pile tufts. The major portion of the length of each tuft is thus not stiffened by the presence of binder material.

U.S. Patent 4,619,853 (Blyth et al.) appears to disclose a standard pile formation process, and is not seen to impact adversely the patentability of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing it is submitted that the claims of this application define patentably over the references cited by the examiner, and that this application stands in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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